



# Badger Creek Primary School

## Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy

**\*Taken direct from the Department Guidelines**

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students and members of our school community understand:

- (a) our commitment to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for students
- (b) expectations for positive student behaviour
- (c) support available to students and families
- (d) our school's policies and procedures for responding to inappropriate student behaviour.

Badger Creek Primary School is committed to providing a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment for all students. We understand that students reach their full potential only when they are happy, healthy and safe, and that a positive school culture, where student participation is encouraged and valued, helps to engage students and support them in their learning. Our school acknowledges that student wellbeing and student learning outcomes are closely linked.

The objective of this policy is to support our school to create and maintain a safe, supportive and inclusive school environment consistent with our school's values.

### **SCOPE**

This policy applies to all school activities, including camps and excursions.

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### **POLICY**

#### **1. School profile**

Badger Creek Primary School is located in beautiful surroundings 4km south of Healesville and 60km east of Melbourne. Our school is located directly across the road from the Healesville Sanctuary and has a rich history linked with the indigenous settlement at Corranderk. Badger Creek Primary School No 3309 was opened in 1899 when it replaced the original Coranderrk Aboriginal Station School No 3048, which operated from 1893-1898. Badger Creek Primary School had new buildings constructed in 1989. These beautiful, award-winning buildings replaced the Old School building which was relocated across the road to preserve the community's history. The historic building is now used by the school and various community groups for special functions. In 2010, with funding through the Building the Educational Revolution program, we built a 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning space which

caters for flexible learning and collaboration. This building houses our Junior School and has five classrooms, toilets, a teacher office, storage and learning spaces.

Student enrolments are currently 260. Students attend BCPS from the Badger Creek district, Healesville, Chum Creek and surrounding rural areas. We have an SFO of 0.3975 and a diverse range of education attainment and socio-economic backgrounds within our school community.

BCPS has moved towards multi-age classes to meet the broad educational needs of students and to provide teaching teams for our staff. There are Indigenous students attending Badger Creek Primary School and students who come from a Language Background Other Than English. There is also a Students with Disability Program which currently caters for students who require learning support.

## **2. School values, philosophy and vision**

Badger Creek Primary School's vision is to create a sanctuary for continuous growth. We will develop skilled learners who will become educated, responsible and respectful citizens.

The expectation is that the students of Badger Creek Primary School will be successful and enthusiastic learners capable of building positive relationships. We have a commitment towards working together as a team to achieve the best possible outcomes, in a safe and stimulating learning environment. Learning will be maximized and students will feel both motivated and empowered, as they strive to be the best they can be. Environmental awareness will be promoted across the school community, fostering respect for personal and communal property. The values we teach and learn at Badger Creek Primary School are:

**Respect:** Demonstrating respect for self, others and the environment

**Responsibility:** Being accountable for your own and the community's actions towards yourself, others resources and the environment

**Care and Support:** Practising genuine care and support, to nurture and help others

**Integrity:** Being honest and fair in all interactions and being true to what is important

**Pride:** Always striving for Personal Best and celebrating achievement

## **3. Wellbeing and engagement strategies**

Badger Creek Primary School strives to provide a safe, inclusive and supportive school environment which values the human rights of all students and staff.

Badger Creek Primary School is committed to creating a school community where all members of our school community are welcomed, accepted and treated equitably and with respect regardless of their backgrounds or personal attributes such as race, language, religious beliefs, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation so that they can participate, achieve and thrive at school.

### Universal

Badger Creek Primary School acknowledges and celebrates the diversity of backgrounds and experiences in our school community and we will not tolerate behaviours, language or practices that label, stereotype or demean others. At Badger Creek Primary School we value the human rights of every student and we take our obligations under anti-discrimination laws and the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities seriously.

Badger Creek Primary School will:

- Actively nurture and promote a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity

- ensure that students are not discriminated against (directly or indirectly) and where necessary, are reasonably accommodated to participate in their education and school activities (eg schools sports, concerts, etc.) on the same basis as their peers
- acknowledge and respond to the diverse needs, identities and strengths of all students
- encourage empathy and fairness towards others
- challenge stereotypes that promote prejudicial and biased behaviours and practices
- contribute to positive learning, engagement and wellbeing outcomes for students
- respond to complaints and allegations appropriately and ensure that students are not victimised.

Bullying, unlawful discrimination, harassment, vilification and other forms of inappropriate behaviour targeting individuals or groups because of their personal attributes will not be tolerated at Badger Creek Primary School. We will take appropriate measures, consistent with our *Student Wellbeing and Engagement* and *Bullying* policies to respond to students who demonstrate these behaviours at our school.

Students who may have experienced or witnessed this type of behaviour are encouraged to speak up and to let their teachers, parents or carers know about those behaviours to ensure that inappropriate behaviour can be addressed.

#### Targeted

- Each cohort is allocated a lead teacher to help monitor student wellbeing and act as main point of call and contact for students who may require additional support.
- Students with a disability are supported to be able to engage fully in their learning and school activities in accordance with the Department's policy on Students with Disability, such as through reasonable adjustments to support access to learning programs, consultation with families and where required, student support groups and individual education plans
- Any students have experienced trauma, staff will apply a trauma based approach when working with these students
- The Wellbeing team will add additional support to students requiring further assistance and help
- Koorie students will be supported within their education with a positive learning environment promoted

#### Individual

Badger Creek Primary School implements a range of strategies that support and promote individual engagement. These can include:

- Introduce a meeting with the student, leadership team and parent/carer to help understand how best to engage the student at school
- Develop individual learning plans and behavioural support plans
- Build constructive relationships with peers
- Create safe spaces within the classroom and yard for students
- Introduce students to wellbeing support staff members
- Have students create a 5 safe people chart of who they can seek help from when required
- If required introduce reengagement programs such as Navigator
- Help implement programs for students with disabilities and who require further assistance

#### **4. Identifying students in need of support**

Badger Creek Primary School also understands that it has a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments to accommodate students with disabilities and in need of support. A reasonable adjustment is a measure or action taken to assist students with disabilities to participate in their education on the same basis as their peers.

Reasonable adjustments will be made for students with disabilities in consultation with the student, their parents or carers, their teachers and if appropriate, their treating practitioners.

Badger Creek Primary School will closely monitor the following information to help identify if a student requires further support and assistance:

- Attendance records
- Academic performance
- Observations from school staff members
- Enrolment information
- Engagement with peers

## **5. Student rights and responsibilities**

All members of our school community have a right to experience a safe and supportive school environment. We expect that all students, staff, parents and carers treat each other with respect and dignity. Our school's Statement of Values highlights the rights and responsibilities of members of our community.

Students have the right to:

- participate fully in their education
- feel safe, secure and happy at school
- learn in an environment free from bullying, harassment, violence, racism, discrimination or intimidation
- express their ideas, feelings and concerns.

Students have the responsibility to:

- participate fully in their educational program
- display positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and members of the school community
- respect the right of others to learn.

Students who may have a complaint or concern about something that has happened at school are encouraged to speak to their parents or carers and approach a trusted teacher or a member of the school leadership team. Further information about raising a complaint or concern is available in our Complaints Policy.

### **Student behavioural expectations and management**

Violence, bullying, and other offensive and harmful behaviours such as racism, harassment and discrimination will not be tolerated and will be managed in accordance with this policy.

When a student acts in breach of the behaviour standards of our school community, Badger Creek Primary School will institute a staged response, consistent with the Department's policies on behaviour, discipline and student wellbeing and engagement. Where appropriate, parents will be informed about the inappropriate behaviour and the disciplinary action taken by teachers and other school staff.

Our school considers, explores and implements positive and non-punitive interventions to support student behaviour before considering disciplinary measures such as detention, withdrawal of privileges or withdrawal from class.

Disciplinary measures may be used as part of a staged response to inappropriate behaviour in combination with other engagement and support strategies to ensure that factors that may have contributed to the student's behaviour are identified and addressed. Disciplinary measures at our school will be applied fairly and consistently. Students will always be provided with an opportunity to be heard.

Disciplinary measures that may be applied include:

- warning a student that their behaviour is inappropriate

- teacher controlled consequences such as moving a student in a classroom or other reasonable and proportionate responses to misbehaviour
- withdrawal of privileges
- referral to the leadership staff members
- restorative practices
- behaviour support and intervention meetings
- suspension
- expulsion

Suspension, expulsion and restrictive interventions are measures of last resort and may only be used in situations consistent with Department policy, available at:

- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/suspensions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/expulsions/policy>
- <https://www2.education.vic.gov.au/pal/restraint-seclusion/policy>

In line with Ministerial Order 1125, no student aged 8 or younger will be expelled without the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Education and Training.

The Principal of Badger Creek Primary School is responsible for ensuring all suspensions and expulsions are recorded on CASES21.

Corporal punishment is prohibited by law and will not be used in any circumstance at our school.

## **6. Engaging with families**

Badger Creek Primary School values the input of parents and carers, and we will strive to support families to engage in their child's learning and build their capacity as active learners. We aim to be partners in learning with parents and carers in our school community.

We work hard to create successful partnerships with parents and carers by:

- ensuring that all parents have access to our school policies and procedures, available on our school website
- maintaining an open, respectful line of communication between parents and staff.
- providing parent volunteer opportunities so that families can contribute to school activities
- involving families in school decision making

## **7. Evaluation**

Badger Creek Primary School will collect data each year to understand the frequency and types of wellbeing issues that are experienced by our students so that we can measure the success or otherwise of our school based strategies and identify emerging trends or needs.

Sources of data that will be assessed on an annual basis include:

- student survey data
- incidents data
- school reports
- parent survey
- Compass, including attendance data

## **COMMUNICATION**

This policy will be communicated to our school community in the following:

- Available publicly on our school's
- Included in staff induction processes
- Made available in hard copy from school administration upon request

Our school will also ensure it follows the mandatory parent/carer notification requirements with respect to suspensions and expulsions outlined in the Department's policies at:

- [Suspension process](#)
- [Expulsions - Decision](#)

### **FURTHER INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

The following Department of Education and Training policies are relevant to this Student Engagement and Wellbeing Policy:

- [Attendance](#)
- [Student Engagement](#)
- [Child Safe Standards](#)
- [Supporting Students in Out-of-Home Care](#)
- [Students with Disability](#)
- [LGBTIQ Student Support](#)
- [Behaviour - Students](#)
- [Suspensions](#)
- [Expulsions](#)
- [Restraint and Seclusion](#)

The following school policies are also relevant to this Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy:

- Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
- Bullying Prevention Policy
- Inclusion and Diversity Policy
- Statement of Values and School Philosophy

### ***POLICY REVIEW AND APPROVAL***

Policy:	Student Wellbeing and Engagement Policy
Created Date:	December 2022
Consultation:	School Council
Approved Date:	December 2022
Approved by	Principal
Date for Review:	December 2024